

AFD SPIRIT

From the Chief's Desk

Hard to believe another summer is nearly over. Where does the time go? For the Boynton family it was a summer of change. It is hard to believe that six weeks ago I started as the new Chief. It is even harder to believe six weeks prior to my first day in Amherst summer was just getting started and I could only imagine where we would be and what things would be like today. The early summer days were spent preparing to leave Keene. A six week notice bounced back and fourth from being forever to not being enough time to tie up loose ends. During that time a wise man told me "before you know it will all be ancient history" and to my amazement he was right. A 21 year career came to an end there was hardly time to smell the roses and thank those that I had worked with for so many years. It was a stressful and crazy summer but one I will always remember. For the members of Amherst Fire, I would conclude it was a long summer and many deserve a



great deal of credit for their hard work and dedication. I commend Deputy Chief

Brian Disco for a job well done this spring and summer as Interim Fire Chief. Deputy Chief Conley, as the only full-time fire department employee during this time did a fabulous job managing the day-to-day operations and training in addition to his fire prevention inspection duties. Captain Dan Barton kept the south station on their "A" game and like the Deputies he spent most of the summer being on-call. Captain Barton, FF's Beland, Hahn, and Raduazzo went over and above the call of duty by devoting a tremendous amount of time training seven new drivers. I am sure many others deserve credit for a job well done so I want to thank everyone for there hard work and dedication over the summer.

It's the start of the budget

season for department heads so the next couple of columns you will hear about the budget process and how things are progressing. Things will kick off in September with a State of the Department presentation to the Board of Selectmen. The fire department will be on the agenda for September 27th or October 12th. As soon as I know what night we are scheduled I will email the Amherst Department Members as all are welcome to attend. The one advantage we have this year is a fresh set of eyes looking at things from a different perspective. I have identified several items and have several ideas that I intend to bring to the board. Ideas include adjusting the budget for replacement of turn out gear, pagers, SCBA's and Engine 2. Another big challenge will be completion of the second floor of Central Station.

Take Care and Stay Safe

Mark Boynton
Fire Chief

Pump Operations in Focus



Have Fire? Bring water!

In rural settings like Amherst there is a fair amount of the town that is not covered by a

hydrant system. Fortunately, Amherst Fire Engines carry from 1,000 to 3,000 gallons of water. But that will just get us started. August training focused on pump operations and was a good opportunity for newly appointed CDL drivers to get pump time. August training focused on mock scenarios where first due pieces would establish a waters supply and then run "tanker" shuttles utilizing

Tanker 1 to refill a portable water tank and keep a master stream flowing. That isn't an easy feat. Master Streams can deliver upwards to 800 gallons per minute. Quick math says if you have 3,000 gallons in your "porta-tank", plus 1,000 on your engine for a total of 4,000 gallons, that means you have...you guessed it...only around 5 minutes to fill up again. So you have to be quick!



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This Months

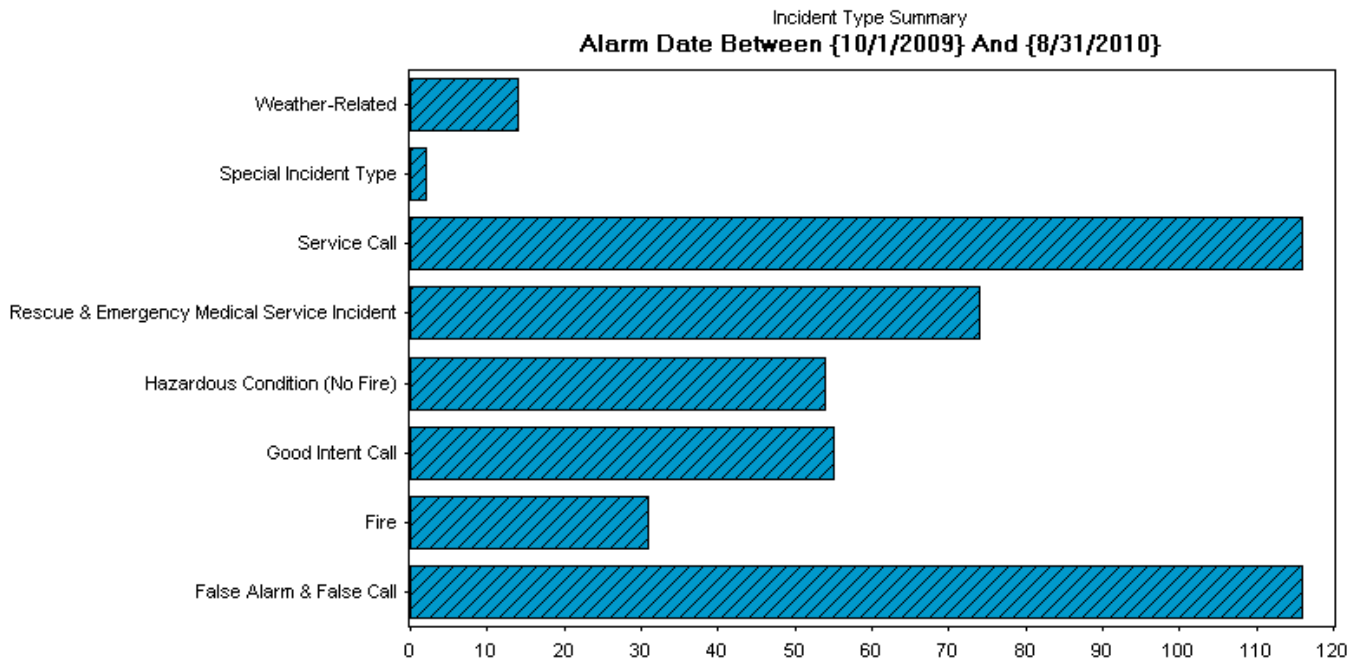
Highlights:

- *Message from the Chief*
- *Fire Prevention Week!*
- *ATA Martial Arts hosts a Safety Day, AFD responds*
- *Get that Chimney Swept!*

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AFD Run Stats—October 2009 to August 2010



AFD Family Night a Success



With a gas grill generously provided by Lowe's of Amherst, over forty AFD and family members descended on Central Station on Monday, August 30th for a pot luck Bar-B-Que. It was a chance to thank family members for the service provided by members to the town and the department. Thank you to the Chief for suggesting and hosting the event.



FF's Miron, Blair, and Powell took Engine 3 to ATA Martial Arts in Amherst to participate in a Safety Day hosted by ATA and Sr. Master Robert Roy. Thank you to ATA for having us! We were even allowed to break some boards—without forcible entry tools!

Fire Prevention Reminder—Fire Prevention Week October 3rd thru 9th

The NFPA (National Fire Prevention Association—www.nfpa.org) announced that Fire Prevention Week will be the week of October 3rd through 9th. The



theme for this year is "SMOKE ALARMS—A sound you can live with"

The Amherst Fire Department will be conducting a host of activities at the Amherst Public Schools to alert children to the dangers of fire and tips for staying safe. A preview of fire prevention will also occur during the Amherst 250th Celebration in September.

Of course if you have smoke in your house, get outside and dial **9-1-1**

SPECIAL NOTE: Due to the continued dry conditions and falling dry leaves, always check with Amherst Fire Department before conducting any outside burn (including the use of chimineas and fire pits/bowls). A permit is required. Call Amherst Dispatch (603.673.4900) or Deputy Conley (603.673.1545) to see if permits are being issued!

September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 <i>Labor Day</i>	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Schedule of Events— September/October 2010

- September 6th, *Labor Day!*
- September 7th—Monthly Department/ Association Meeting
- September 13th & 20th—Company Drills
- September 25th—Amherst 250th Celebration—Find us on the Village Green and at Lowe's for Safety Day!
- September 27th—Officers Meeting
- October 3rd through 9th—**Fire Prevention Week**
- October 4th—Monthly Department/ Association Meeting
- October 11th and 18th—Company Drills
- October 25th—Officer's Meeting
- October 31st—Halloween! Find us in the Village!

"It's getting chilly out...let's have a fire in the fire place"

The winter months are right around the corner and that means starting to think about a fire in that wood-stove or fireplace. Autumn is a great time to schedule that chimney cleaning and inspection from a local chimney sweep (Consult your Yellow Pages). The Amherst Fire Department typically sees an increase in calls for chimney fires as winter approaches. On New Year's day of 2010, the AFD responded to a chimney fire that had extended into the wall of the structure.

Remember: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.



AFD at an MVA on Rt. 101A in August 2010

October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30/31 

Amherst Fire Department

177 Amherst St.
Amherst, NH 03031
Phone: 603.673.1545
Emergency: 9-1-1

*We're on the Web—Visit us
on Facebook!*

www.facebook.com/amherstfire

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newsletter? Send an e-mail to
easwenson@comcast.net*

The AFD Mission: Amherst Fire Department is committed to the preservation of life and property through highly developed skills in fire suppression, rescue and community awareness of the dangers of fire. We are proud members of our community that respond 24 hours per day, 365 days a year as we have done for over 200 years.

Do you think you have what it takes? Inquire about becoming a call firefighter by calling 603.673.1545 or ask one of us when you see us around town.



FF Miron working a brush fire off Northern Boulevard

A Look Back—From the Log Books

Thank you to FF Hahn and Retired Captain Ed Hanlon for safely maintaining the AFD log books containing the many years of AFD history and meeting minutes. This month, we look back 150 years...

On July 23, 1859 Perley Dodge was appointed temporary Chairman Pro Tem to organize the Lawrence Company #2. On July 27, 1859 Officers were elected and articles of constitution adopted. The Officer positions were: Foreman, 1st & 2nd Assistant Foremen, Foreman Leading Hose, with a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Assistant Foreman, Foreman Suction Hose with a 1st, 2nd and 3rd Assistant Foreman, Clerk, and Steward. Of interest, Article #9 of the constitution specifically stated, no intoxicating liquors on a fire, or in the firehouse, along with no smoking on a fire or during a business meeting, and that no food would be served in the firehouse except as approved by the Foreman. They also incorporated fines of 50 cents for a missed call –

which they called an “Alarm of Fire,” and 10 cents per missed roll call. They had an opening and closing roll call per meeting. The fines remained the same for 101 years. A 50 cents then could be equated to having a \$20 fine today, or \$5 per roll call.

There was controversy abounding 150 years ago, during the Sept./Oct 1860 meetings. Firstly, there was a matter of \$20 donated to the Company. A member named Gilbert Wills apparently took hold of a \$20 donation from Isaac Eaton, then gave it back, then took it again, without ever turning it over to the Company. It was supposed to be for a Company dinner to be held in Nashua. It generated bad publicity. They voted to appoint a committee to question Gilbert, which they did. After the committee reported the results, at a special extra meeting in Oct., the company voted to appoint a committee of 5, to draw up an article for publication (in the Cabinet) to explain Mr. Eaton's money matter. Also at that special meeting they voted that unless the Citizens of Amherst acted to build reservoirs, or supply water on the com-

mon, that the Company would disband. They voted to appoint a committee to inform the Town Fire Wards. The unexpected results will be in the next issue.

More recently and exactly 50 years ago, during the Sept/Oct 1960 meetings the Lawrence Engine Co was coming to an end. In September the majority voted on the matter of whether or not to pursue becoming the Amherst Fire Department. The answer was “Yes”. They also discussed the Hand Tubs and insurance – at that time they were valued at \$32,000. In October, the last member to retire from the Lawrence Engine Company, John Duval did so and was voted an Honorary Member. Also the last person to join the Lawrence Company was voted in – Thomas Wiggan. They then discussed future bylaws.

Apparently sometime during the 101 years, the name changed From Lawrence Company #2, to the Lawrence Engine Company.
